

Jumper takes oath as Air Force chief of staff

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Gen. John P. Jumper became the 17th Air Force chief of staff following Gen. Michael E. Ryan's retirement Sept. 6 at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche, who presided over the joint retirement/assumption of command ceremony, administered the oath of office to Jumper.

Among the distinguished visitors attending the ceremony were Vice President Richard B. Cheney; Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jim Finch.

As the new chief, Jumper said he is committed to providing Air Force men and women with the resources, training, equipment and leadership to make sure that when they go into harm's way, they emerge victorious with a score of 100-0.

He is also committed to the Air Force's transformation into an aerospace force.

"Our job is to lever this nation's technology in air and space to give the nation its greatest asymmetrical advantage," he said. "We will do this by continuing the process of transformation and making this Air Force the best air and space force the nation has ever seen."

Jumper said the Air Force would continue to build upon what Ryan has begun.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche presents Gen. John P. Jumper with the chief of staff flag Sept. 6 during the change-of-command ceremony at Andrews AFB, Md. Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jim Finch (left) assists as Gen. Michael E. Ryan (rear), relinquishes command.

Prior to assuming his current position, Jumper was the commander of Air Combat Command, headquartered at Langley AFB, Va.

President nominates AF general for top military post

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Calling Air Force Gen. Richard Myers a man of "steady resolve and determined leadership," President George W. Bush tapped the Kansas native to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during a news conference in Texas on Aug. 24.

If confirmed by the Senate, Myers would succeed Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton as the top uniformed officer in the U.S. military, and become the first Air Force officer to hold that post since Gen. David Jones (1978-1982). Bush also nominated Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace, currently commander of U.S. Southern Command, to become vice chairman, replacing Myers, who has held that position since March 2000.

Bush, speaking before reporters at his ranch near Crawford, Texas, called Myers "the right man to preserve the best traditions



Photo by SSgt. Michael D. Noel II

Gen. Richard Myers and President George W. Bush talk to reporters Aug. 24 after the president nominated Myers to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

of our armed forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future. His is a skilled and steady hand."

Those sentiments were echoed by Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Secretary of the Air Force James Roche.

"I've had the great fortune to work closely with Dick Myers and with General Hugh Shelton over these past few months," Rumsfeld said. "What I have come to know and expect of General Myers is candor, deliberation, judgment, keen insight, fiber and good humor. His career is the embodiment of the transformation with which he will be charged as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He is a leader."

Roche spoke confidently of the general's qualifications for the job at hand.

"I am extremely proud that President Bush has decided to nominate General Richard Myers to be the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Roche said. "His long — see **MYERS**, page 2

General Batbie to be next Reserve vice commander

WASHINGTON — A former staff director is returning to Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., to serve as AFRC vice commander.

Maj. Gen. John J. Batbie Jr., director of mobilization and reserve component affairs for U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany, will start overseeing the day-to-day operation of the command Jan. 1, 2002. He will serve in active-duty status and will replace Maj. Gen. David R. Smith, who will retire effective Dec. 31.

The Air Force General Officer Matters Office in the Pentagon announced the assignment actions Aug. 23.

"Major General Batbie brings a tremendous wealth of experience with his assignment as our vice commander," said Lt. Gen. James E. Sherrard III, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander. "His record of excellence speaks for itself. His leadership and in-depth understanding of how our forces can best serve to support Air Force and joint commander requirements will be key to our future successes.

"Major General Smith has served this command in an outstanding fashion in every assignment he has held. His dedication to service and deep caring for his assigned personnel are superb attributes



Batbie

that everyone should aspire to achieve."

Batbie has been advising and assisting the commander in chief of EUCOM since May 2000 in the employment of reserve component forces in joint operations throughout the unified command. He was director of plans and programs at Headquarters AFRC from June 1994 until September 1998, when he became commander of 22nd Air Force at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga.

The next vice commander of AFRC joined the U.S. Army in 1966 as an armor officer and then served as a helicopter pilot before joining the Air Force Reserve in 1972. Batbie's other assignments include command of the 434th Air Refueling Wing, Grissom AFB, Ind., from July 1991 to June 1994, and the 916th Air Refueling Group, Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., from April 1988 to July 1991.

Smith has been the AFRC vice commander since January 1998 and served as commander of AFRC from June 1998 to September 1998 when Sherrard's appointment to the job awaited Senate confirmation.

Like Batbie, Smith has commanded a numbered air force, wing and group. He was commander of 10th Air Force from December 1990 to January 1998, first at Bergstrom Air Reserve Station, Texas, and later at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas, when the headquarters relocated. He commanded the 482nd Tactical Fighter Wing, Homestead AFB, Fla., from July 1987 to December 1990, and the 917th Tactical Fighter Group, Barksdale AFB, La., from August 1983 to August 1986. (*AFRC News Service*)

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service to our country and extensive knowledge and broad range of experience of command in important geographic and regional assignments will ably serve the president and Secretary Rumsfeld as we proceed into a new era.

"The entire Air Force is proud to have one of our own nominated to this high position of trust and responsibility representing all our men and women in uniform," Roche said. "Should he be confirmed, I look forward to serving with him as we ensure our armed forces remain the best in the world."

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, said that Myers possesses all the right qualities to help the U.S. armed forces remain the very best in the world.

"I've known and worked with General Dick Myers for over two decades ... I'm both personally and professionally pleased to see his nomination as the next chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff," Ryan said. "He is a man of great integrity, combat proven, with an extremely sharp mind. His operational command expertise circles the globe and spans into space. His experience reaches into the political realm as the assistant to

the chairman working closely with the secretary of state.

"With all these credentials, he is still as down to earth as the Harley he drives, the sheep dogs he owns, or the TR6 (car) he has rebuilt," Ryan said. "He and Mary Jo are a couple who have given their lives to the service of our country. As the vice chairman he has earned the trust, respect and confidence of the administration, Congress and each of the services. If confirmed, I am confident he will make a superb chairman."

Myers is a 1965 graduate of Kansas State University and a veteran of the Vietnam War with more than 600 combat flying hours. He said he is ready to roll up his sleeves and get to work, building the kind of military envisioned by Bush — one that will meet "current obligations and emerging threats."

"If confirmed," Myers said, "I very much look forward to remaining part of this terrific defense team, captained by a dedicated and principled secretary of defense."

Myers joined the Air Force in June 1965 and has seen a variety of assignments, ranging from squadron and wing

commander to inspector general. Before taking the position of vice chairman of the JCS, he served as commander in chief of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, and commander of U.S. Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.



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SGLI coverage extends to family members

WASHINGTON — The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance will be extended to provide coverage to family members beginning Nov. 1.

The government has always had an excellent estate program to protect family members in case of a servicemember's death, said Maj. Jeffrey T. Keef, chief of Air Force military estate and special pays policy at the Pentagon.

However, little has been available to provide the military member financial protection in the event of a family member's death.

Under the new provisions, spouses and children will be automatically covered if the military member is an SGLI participant, Keef said. The member will have the option to decline spouse coverage if submitted in writing.

The maximum automatic coverage is \$100,000 for a member's spouse, and any lesser amount must be evenly divisible by \$10,000, Keef said.

However, the amount of coverage of a member's spouse cannot exceed the amount of coverage of the insuring member.

Premiums for spouse coverage will be charged based upon spouse's age and will range from 9 cents to 55 cents per \$1,000 of coverage. For example, \$100,000 of coverage could be obtained on a spouse younger than 35 for \$9 per month.



There is also a policy conversion option for the insured spouse after loss of eligibility for SGLI, he said.

Children will be covered automatically for

\$10,000, and no premiums will be charged the member, Keef said. If both parents are eligible SGLI participants, the child may not be insured by more than one member.

In the event of a family member's death, any insurance in effect will be paid to the insuring member. If the member passes away before payment can be made, then the amount will go to the people named as the member's beneficiaries.

"The Air Force sees this as a good deal for its members," Keef said. "By allowing members who have elected coverage only under SGLI to opt for family member coverage, we are putting them on equal ground with civilians who might obtain family coverage as a rider to their master civilian life insurance policies," he explained. "This relieves our members from having to seek out more than one provider in order to acquire coverage for the entire family."

For more information, visit the SGLI homepage at <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sglivgli/sglifam.htm>

Briefs

Reserve seeks AD retirees

WASHINGTON — Sept. 1 - The Air Force Reserve is offering active-duty military retirees the opportunity to return to military service.

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY2001 added Section 12741 to Chapter 1223, Title 10 USC, which permits retired active-component service members who later serve in the Air Force Reserve to elect retirement as members of the retired reserve.

In addition to helping Air Force Reserve Command fill a critical need, active-duty retirees will receive several benefits for continued military service as reservists.

Interested people who believe they qualify for the program may contact the Recruiting Opportunity Center at 1-800-295-4648 where they can leave information for a recruiter to call them back.

To learn more about joining the Air Force Reserve, people may visit www.afreserve.com/retiree.

TA includes master's degree

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE,

Ga. - Air Force Reserve Command will increase the maximum amount of assistance and level of course work offered through its Tuition Assistance Program starting Oct. 1.

The maximum aid reservists may receive annually will climb from \$2,500 to \$3,500, and the program will expand studies from a bachelor's degree up to a master's degree.

The changes are part of the Reserve's ongoing effort to attract recruits and bolster retention.

Unit reservists can learn more about the eligibility requirements and program features from base/wing education and training offices.

Individual mobilization augmentees can obtain assistance from Delaina Hull of the military training division at Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver. ARPC/DPAT's telephone number is (303) 676-6396 or DSN 926-6396. (AFRC News Service)



PA vacancies

The following public affairs offices have IMA vacancies:

□ Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio (Headquarters Air Force Material Command) - Lieutenant colonel. POC - CMSgt. Deborah Healey, DSN 787-3778 or (937) 257-3778.

□ Pope AFB, N.C. - Captain. POC - CMSgt. Janice Conner, DSN 779-7815 or (618) 229-7815.

□ Eglin AFB, Fla. - Technical sergeant. POC - Lt. Col. Jane Rinell, DSN 872-3931, Ext. 481; or (850) 882-3931, Ext. 481.

□ Hurlburt Field, Fla. (Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command) - Master sergeant or technical sergeant. POC - TSgt. Ginger Schreitmueller, DSN 579-5515 or (850) 884-5515.

□ Buckley AFB and Peterson AFB, Colo. - Master sergeant. POC - SMSgt. Cathy Segal, DSN 692-5176 or (719) 554-5176.

□ Sheppard AFB, Texas - Captain. POC - SMSgt. Val McGovern, DSN 487-3964 or (210) 652-3964.